

General Faculties Council  
**GRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Approved Minutes

Meeting #30  
October 18, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

A167

***Voting Members***

Lisa Young, Co-Chair  
Antony Ware, Academic Co-Chair  
Jalel Azaiez  
Jim Field  
Quentin Pittman  
Michael Sideris  
Jewel Spangler  
Joelle Welling

***Non-Voting Members***

Francine Smith  
Tanya Zdorenko

***Secretary***

Susan Belcher

***Scribe***

Cherie Tutt

***Regrets***

Christine Johns  
Negar Mohammadi  
Angelique Saweczko

***Observers***

Gillian Robinson, Senior Director (Strategic Operations), Faculty of Graduate Studies  
Heather Smith-Watkins, Analyst, Planning and Reviews – present for Items 4 and 5

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The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 1:58 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the October 18, 2017 Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

**2. Remarks of the Co-Chair and the Academic Co-Chair**

The Co-Chair welcomed members to the new meeting year. The Co-Chair then provided an overview of the Committee's role, responsibilities and authority, and explained the role of the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) Working Group.

The Co-Chair informed the Committee that several graduate program proposals are being expedited through the University's governance system, so that they can be submitted to the government by January. It was explained that the government has agreed to pilot a quicker approval process for post-baccalaureate and Master's degree programs.

In response to a question, the Co-Chair confirmed that it has been communicated to the government that proposals for post-baccalaureate certificates that may later ladder into a degree program may be submitted prior to proposals for a new degree in order to allow the University to test the market and mobilize faculty and staff.

The Academic Co-Chair made no remarks.

### **3. Recommendation of the Reactivation of the Music Education Specialization in the MMus and PhD in Music programs**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Joelle Welling, Division Chair (Music), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent explained that the Specialization in Music Education was suspended in December 2009 due to insufficient supervisory capacity. The Division of Music would like to reactivate this Specialization based on having supervisory capacity with the 2016 hiring of a new tenure-track faculty member.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
  - The addition of one faculty member with expertise in this area is sufficient to re-open the Specialization as the other faculty will be able to enable completion of this Specialization by teaching courses and serving on review committees, and it is envisioned that this program will be sustainable
  - Students who complete this program would be qualified to teach for the Calgary Board of Education
  - The Division of Music has not consulted with Mount Royal University (MRU) regarding resources to supplement the Specialization, as MRU does not have a post-secondary music program; however, the Division of Music has conferred with the Werklund School of Education regarding possible course sharing

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the reactivation of the Specialization in Music Education in the Master of Music and Doctor of Philosophy in Music programs in the Division of Music, effective September 2018, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

#### **4. Recommendation of revisions to the course-based and thesis-based Master of Arts in History**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Jewel Spangler, Graduate Program Director, Department of History, Faculty of Arts, presented this item.

##### Highlights:

- The proponent explained that it is being proposed that the course requirements for the thesis-based and the course-based Master of Arts (MA) in History programs be reduced to improve overall completion times, and to align with other programs in Canada
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - The Department of History has been looking at developing a one year course-based Masters program for over ten years, and was prompted into action now based on recommendations from the Department's recent unit review
  - The Department believes that the programs have not been overly simplified as they still include a major research component, and are academically rigorous. They will also be consistent with similar programs in Canada.
  - Students who complete either the thesis-based or the course-based MA in History will be qualified to apply for a doctorate program and enrolled students are eligible for Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council funding
  - The Department has not consulted with the University of Alberta regarding their intentions to reduce the course requirements for its programs and the proponent agreed to look into this.
- The Committee discussed:
  - The ability for students to meet the requirement for reading knowledge of a second language within the new program structures
  - The trend to reduce the number of required courses at the post-graduate level across Canadian institutions in the Social Sciences and Humanities
  - The variation across disciplines of the number of required units for completion of a Masters, and the balance between rigour and staying competitive
- The proponent noted an error in the proposed Calendar changes, reporting that History 652 should say History 653

##### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the revisions to the course requirements for the thesis-based Master of Arts in History, effective September 2018, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

**Carried**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the revisions to the course requirements for the course-based Master of Arts in History, effective September 2018, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

**Carried****Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Programs Subcommittee approve the revised Calendar wording for the thesis-based and the course-based Master of Arts in History, contingent upon approval of the revisions to the course requirements, as set out in the document provided to the Committee, with the reported amendment.

**Carried****5. Faculty of Arts Calendar Changes**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Lisa Young, Co-Chair, and Tanya Zdorenko, Graduate Calendar Editor, presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The proponents reported that the GAPS Calendar Working Group reviewed all of the proposed Calendar changes and recommends the changes to the GAPS, with the exception of the changes to the Political Science program requirements because the Political Science Department has decided to withdraw these changes at this time
- In response to questions, it was confirmed that:
  - The increases to the grade point average (GPA) for admission to the MA and PhD in English and the MA and PhD in Sociology are reflective of current admission practices
  - The GPA calculation used for admission is based on the last two years of an undergraduate degree consisting of a minimum of 60 units

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) approve the Calendar changes for the graduate programs in the Faculty of Arts, as set out in the Summary provided to the Committee, and as recommended by the GAPS Calendar Working Group, with the reported amendment.

**Carried****6. Approved GAPS 2017-2018 Work Plan**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

**7. Status of Program Approvals**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

**8. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**9. Adjournment**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee adjourn the October 18, 2017 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

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Susan Belcher  
University Secretary